

#1: "Looking Into The Historicity of Christianity"

Series: Exploring "The Da Vinci Code"

- A. In every instance, what appears to be historical fact in "The Da Vinci Code" is nothing more than a warped version of a _____ truth, which is why the book can only be categorized as fiction.
1. Priory of Sion – based on fraudulent documents from 1956, not 1099
 2. Dan Brown's genius is that he presents just a little truth to make it *feel* credible, then he distorts and twists the _____ into fiction to make for a great storyline (so enjoy the story, just know your facts)
- B. We should never shy away from or be afraid to look deeply into those who would raise questions about our _____
- C. The basic tenets of Christianity stand up to the most rigorous _____.
- D. The more answers you discover to questions people raise about your faith, the more _____ & unshakable your faith will be.
- E. 2 Categories of Questions/Challenges offered by "The Da Vinci Code"
1. Challenges concerning the historicity of Christianity (sermon #1)
 2. Challenges concerning the theology of Christianity (sermon #2)
- F. Are the stories about Jesus in the Bible reliable?
1. The Formation of the NT
 - a. Jesus never wrote a _____. Jesus *was* the Word/Truth (He lived it)
 - b. Oral Culture 2000 years ago (most people illiterate)
 - c. The followers of Jesus went out into the world sharing their stories of what they had seen and experienced with Jesus.
 2. As early as 10 years after Jesus' resurrection, people felt that the stories of Jesus were so important, that they needed to _____ them down – found in ancient "manuscripts"
 3. Of the 24,000 ancient manuscripts we have in our possession today, generally speaking, they are _____ & they all basically tell the same story- an amazing fact considering all the possibilities for contradiction & error.
 4. Even *if* the disciples got it wrong, we certainly would hear at least something from the _____ eyewitnesses of Jesus to tell the story correctly. But as far as the historical record goes, they never deny the claims of the Gospels.
- G. The Bible is one of the most _____ ancient documents in human history.
- H. PROBLEM: not the Bible itself, but how we _____ the Bible
- I. It is through the _____ that we will find one of the greatest gifts that God has given to you & to me- the ability to understand Truth (including truth about God, ourselves, and other people)
- A. partial 2. truth B. faith C. scrutiny D. solid Fa. book 2. write 3. consistent 4. hostile G. reliable H. interpret I. Bible